

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

~~SECRET~~

Saturday, May 11, 1968
6:35 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: The Situation in Czechoslovakia

Soviet military activity in southeastern East Germany and in south central Poland continues. No significant troop movements have been detected as of 4:00 p.m. this afternoon.

Secretary Rusk and Acting Defense Secretary Nitze met this afternoon to review intelligence reports and to assure themselves that all contingency planning was in order.

The Soviet sabre rattling along the Czech border has brought heavy pressure on the Czech leaders to disavow those Communist Party progressives who have insisted upon radical reforms. The continuing presence of Soviet Troops along the Czech borders implies that Moscow expects soon some political response from Prague.

A clue as to how the Czech leaders will react may come in a speech which Chairman Dubcek is expected to make Sunday or Monday. The mood in Prague remains calm.

CIA's latest estimate is that Soviet concern over developments in Czechoslovakia has clearly been increasing at a rapid rate. CIA believes:

- that the Soviets have issued a serious warning to Prague to arrest its wayward course and
- that if this proves ineffective, Moscow intends to use additional sanctions.

CIA concludes that the best judgment that can be made at this stage is that the Soviets will probably stop short of military intervention. However, the stakes for the Soviet leaders are high and such a move can no longer be excluded.

Bromley Smith
Bromley Smith

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
NLI/RAC 99-209
By *SJ* NARA, Date 25-02

~~SECRET~~

COPY LIBRARY